

me a clean shirt' ; for they had left him nothing but what was on his back when they seized him, and neither night-gown, cap, or slippers. About the middle of dinner, Mr. Tomlinson, the yeoman of the Robes, and others under him appeared.

I know not who were more rejoiced, the King or them, and the latter gushed out their tears for joy to see their King and master. He told me smilingly, ' I can now give you a shirt/ As soon as dinner was ended he ordered me to go and eat, and empty I was to the last degree, but my appetite was lost. During the short time I was at dinner, the King went into the hall to take leave of those faithful seamen that had lain there night and day. ' Honest friends/ said the King, ' You will not know me presently/ And indeed after shaving and dressing, and with a good periwig, he had not the same countenance. I asked those trusty sailors for what reason they had been so diligent. Their answer was, ' My lord, that no one should touch so much as a hair of the King's head * ; and those wicked deputy lieutenants would have every one believe that the King was their prisoner.¹

The King returned to London on Sunday, December 16, and the applause with which he was received in the streets appeared to some to prove that there was a reaction in his favour. In reality it seems to have been merely relief at the prospect of the cessation of the anarchy which had prevailed since his flight. Meanwhile the Prince of

Orange, called to
London by the Lords forming the provisional
government,
was approaching the capital. James was told
that he must
leave Whitehall, and elected to go to Rochester,
because he
had returned to his resolution of fleeing to
France. On the
morning of December 18, the King embarked
in his barge
at Whitehall stairs and set out for Gravesend.
Ailesbury
describes the voyage down the Thames.

¹ Memoirs, i. 209-10.